

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CITIZENS GROUP

Meeting Notes 4 May 2009 Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street

Attendees

Larry Huffman, Bill Pugh, Bruce Dwyer, Jonathan Krall, Sean Crumley, Stacey Langsdale, Dave Levy, Elizabeth Wright, Yon Lambert (staff), Karen Callaham (staff).

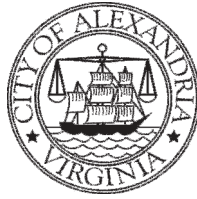
Executive Summary

Yon Lambert welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the topics of the evening. Yon reported to the group that in March 2009, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) released its 07-08 Regional Household Travel Survey. Alexandria placed first in Northern Virginia and second in the region because 9% of trips are made by walking or bicycling.

Existing Projects

Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects and Funding

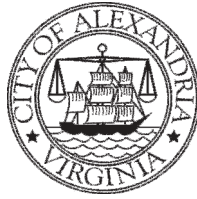
- 1. Holmes Run/Chambliss Crossing** - A contract has been initiated with a design firm to develop crossing plans. As part of the Federal Government's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) project, additional funding has been obtained for streambank stabilization/restoration. Two community meetings are planned this month. More info here >> <http://alexandriava.gov/localmotion/info/default.aspx?id=20184>
- 2. Tarleton Trail - Construction** will begin in summer 2009. This trail will be gravel and will not be paved. However, it will establish a formal trail connection between the Holmes Run Greenway and North Gordon Street.
- 3. Eisenhower Avenue Phase 1B** -Funding for this project was part of the 2005 transportation enhancements. Of the initial \$850,000, less than \$250,000 was used for the new trail between Lake Cook and the Cameron Run Bridge. The City is working to fund the remainder of the project (Phase 1A, underpass) using stimulus funding.
- 4. Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Projects** -The City continues its bicycle/pedestrian safety initiatives. Major intersection improvements have been completed at Van Dorn and Stevenson near EOS Condominiums and BJ's and on-street bikeway markings are planned for Commonwealth Avenue, Braddock Road and Cameron Street in 2009.



5. **Potomac Yards** – There have been no new trail discussions regarding the 3 mile linear park in Land Bay K at Potomac Yards. A trail was part of the approved plan in 2008. Any trail project is contingent on developer funding.
6. **Wayfinding** – The complete citywide wayfinding plan is on-line at www.alexandriava.gov/wayfinding. The project proposes trail signage for the City's three main trail corridors: the Mount Vernon Trail, Holmes Run Greenway and Four Mile Run. No funding is available in the budget for FY2010 for wayfinding. On-Street bikeway signs will continue to be erected by T&ES and consistent with existing bike route signs. VDOT is erecting the signs as part of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail project.
7. **Metro/WMATA Bicycle Parking** – Bicycle racks at Braddock Road, Van Dorn and King Street Metro stations have been replaced and some capacity has been added.

New Projects

- **Safe Routes To School 2010** -The Alexandria City Public Schools formally rescinded its policy prohibiting walking/bicycling to school at Tucker Elementary. Additionally, VDOT has awarded \$95,000 to ACPS and the City for Safe Routes to School funding. Some of the initiatives toward this project will be to create and distribute maps, designate Walking Wednesdays and hire a program coordinator by fall 2009.
- **Pedestrian Legislation 2010** – Councilman Rob Krupicka is recommending passage of legislation that would require motorists to stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks on roads. The current law, Sec. 46.2-924 of the Virginia Code states that drivers must “yield” to pedestrians in crosswalks. It goes on to stipulate the various methods by which a driver may yield, including “changing their course...or stop if necessary.” Councilman Krupicka is asking for help and support to get his draft document into a bill and passed. Contact his aide, [Elizabeth at Elizabeth.jones@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.jones@alexandriava.gov) , 703-838-4500 or Councilman Krupicka at council@krupicka.com with ideas or to be placed on update mailing list. More information can be found at <http://www.bikewalkvirginia.org/documents/PedSafetyPaper.pdf> .
- **Bicycle-Friendly Community Status** – The City has received the Bronze designation of a Bicycle-Friendly Community from the Washington Area Bicycle Association. The sign unveiling will be part of Bike-to-Work Day and the June 6th National Trails Day event that will also celebrate the opening of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge pedestrian/bicycle path.



- **Active Transportation** – On May 19-20th, the 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation Forum will be held in Washington, DC in the national offices of the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy. The case statement is how funding from the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU would be spent to get people out of cars to walk and bicycle.
- **Bicycle Sharing** – The City is pursuing grant funding sources for a program that would be coordinated with other regional jurisdictions.
- **Zoning/City Code update regarding bicycle display** – In June, the Planning Commission and City Council will consider a text amendment to the City's Zoning Ordinance and City Code to allow outdoor display of rental bicycles.

Key Upcoming Events

- **May 9th** - City sponsored Confident Cycling Class at Cora Kelly Rec from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm presented by Washington Area Bicycle Association (WABA)
- **May 11th** - Eco-City Action Plan Open House at Charles Houston Rec from 6:30-9 pm
- **May 13th** -Switzerland Embassy forum on “Building a Bicycle Friendly World” with guest speakers including Mayor of Zurich, Switzerland. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Reservations necessary >> was.events@eda.admin.ch.
- **May 15th** - Bike To Work Day at City Hall’s Market Square from 6:30 - 8:30 am
- **May 21st** - City sponsored Confident Cycling Class at Mt. Vernon Rec from 6-9 pm
- **May 30th** - Arlington County’s Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Four Mile Run Trail at 10 am at 27th Road South and South Four Mile Run Drive
- **June 6th** - National Trails Day celebration at the opening of the Woodrow Wilson pedestrian/bicycle path featuring a bicycle ride across the new bridge path from 10-11 am